GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2701
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
IMPORT OF RICE
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been made with Myanmar (Burma) for import of rice to augment stocks and strengthen Public Distribution System in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum of rice to be imported;

(c) whether the said agreements have not been implemented till date;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): In view of close and friendly relations with Myanmar and the suggestions of Ministry of External Affairs, a proposal of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was approved by the Cabinet on 5th May 2000 to import 50,000 MTs of rice from Myanmar.

(c) & (d): Implementation of the decision was delayed because of poor infrastructure facilities such as weigh bridge and godowns for storage at the Moreh border. Later on, during the 1st Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in Yangon on 15.7.2003, Myanmar informed that their government had introduced a new rice trading policy, and as per this policy, sale/purchase of rice was no longer with the government and that it had been transferred to the private sector. It was, therefore, no longer possible for the Myanmar Government to sell 50,000 MTs rice to India. In view of the above, Cabinet approved a proposal on 23.10.2003 for revoking the earlier decision taken on 5th May 2000 to import 50,000 MTs rice from Myanmar.

(e): Does not arise in view of (c) & (d).